

A¹ U.S. Patent No. 5,830,859, issued November 3, 1998 all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

A² On page 17, line 27, please insert ~~--~~Although certain presently preferred embodiments of the present invention have been specifically described herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains that variations and modifications of the various embodiments shown and described herein may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is intended that the invention be limited only to the extent required by the appended claims and the applicable rules of law ~~--~~.

REMARKS

In the event there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (0007.148/P). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicant hereby

[illegible]

Karlheinz Schmidt

By

Herbert Cohen

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP
900 17th Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 463-7700
Facsimile: (202) 463-6915